



Zero Waste Arlington March 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date: March 25, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: *Online Zoom Meeting*

Attendees:

Committee Members - Charlotte Milan, Sarah Kmetz, Paul Goldberg, Larry Slotnick, Scott Mullen, Priya Sankalia, Meghan Correa, Jim Ballin, Allison LaValley, Emily Dertz.

Residents - Julie Benyo, Cecily Miller, Seema Khan, Cate Barr, Elise Clarkson, Kathryn Howlett

Minutes

Opened with the Land Acknowledgement statement

We acknowledge that the Town of Arlington is located on the ancestral lands of the Massachusetts Tribe, the tribe of Indigenous peoples from whom the Colony, Province, and Commonwealth have taken their names. We pay our respects to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusetts Tribe and their descendants who still inhabit historic Massachusetts territories today.

1. Old Business
 - a. Reviewed and approved February 2021 meeting minutes
- 2.
3. New Business
 - a. *Recycling IQ webinar* review
 - i. Discussed the webinar. 130 Registered and ~87 attendees were live, 46 views as of 3/25. Overall sentiment was that attendees were very positive and engaged during the session
 - ii. Can we see how many views of the recorded version?
 - iii. Charlotte offered video editing capabilities if needed for future events.
 - iv. Outcomes - potential action with multi-family units
 - b. Earth to Arlington - next webinar topic
 - i. Poll from webinar showed interest in Plastics, Municipal Waste
 - ii. Plan is to hold one per quarter and discussed doing early June, Sept and Dec
 - iii. Discussed
 1. *Plastic is Everywhere/Plastic is Going Nowhere: Can we recycle this problem away?*

2. *Municipal Solid Waste (MSW): Impactful Diversion Strategies*

3. *Amping up the other two Rs: Reduce and Reuse*

- iv. Charlotte discussed aligning timing of one on Municipal waste with a new town contract.
- v. Larry and Charlotte to connect on aligning topics & timing
- c. Communications sub-committee update
 - i. Promotions of the webinar has been a primary focus
 - ii. Kristin has continued to post and create a series of posts
- d. Recycling Coordinator update
 - i. Presentation by Julia Wallace, AHS Senior interning with Charlotte at DPW and doing research on Swap Shed in the Arlington
 - 1. Julia presented a summary of her research on whether the community is interested in a swap shed and what types of things would/wouldn't be of interest
 - 2. Next steps are for Charlotte to take a proposal to town leadership for approval
 - ii. MassRecycle conference coming up in April. Any committee members interested in attending should sign up and request reimbursement from the committee.

4.

- a. Single Use Plastics sub-committee update
 - i. Sub-committee is seeking 1-2 more committee members to help either with "No Plastic Please (NPP)" campaign or things in general. Jim, Julie and Cate Barr expressed interest.
 - ii. Paul expressed interest in legislation and pushed the group for how we could get involved. Charlotte
 - iii. Emily and Meghan will coordinate a call with the sub-committee
 - iv. Charlotte mentioned coordinating timing of a webinar on Plastics with the NPP campaign
 - v.
- b. Budget FY 2021-22. Reminder that our current fiscal year ZWA budget must be spent by June 30th
- c. New Business items, including
 - i. EcoWeek
 - 1. Tentatively May 5-15; related to Earth Day and the environment to allow people to attend how they are comfortable
 - 2. 2021 plans are to do a hybrid event, 25 people max gathering (masked & socially distanced)
 - 3. Discussed promoting the June Earth to Arlington series
 - 4. Started >10yrs ago
 - 5. Charlotte suggested ideas on how the group could get involved. If the single use plastics group was ready to promote something, let Charlotte know. an easier option may be to promote the food scrap diversion
 - ii. Break Free from Plastics bill - discuss how to get involved

1. Discussed having the Plastics sub-committee discuss and circle back to this group.
 2. Discussed that just reading through the bill would allow value for creating digestible pieces to then educate town residents.
- iii. Discuss Plastic Bag Recycling & Trash Bags
1. Stop & Shop is still not accepting them. Charlotte is working to escalate this to the Arlington Health Department.
 2. Jim suggested exploring how we could increase resident awareness of how to best recycle; promotional materials, campaign, etc
 3. Jim asked whether we could propose a Town Meeting article to require a certain amount of post-consumer resin for plastic bags sold in town
 4. Charlotte said that if the town goes to a pay per use then there may be opportunity to require the additional bags to have a certain % of post-consumer resin?
 5. Charlotte and Emily to follow-up post-meeting to identify whether a low-lift Plastics event at Ecofest would make sense, e.g. streaming Microplastics Madness and then having a brief panel or Q&A with ZWA members addressing plastic film recycling
- iv. Open Meeting Rules - Larry brought up that we are seeing increasing interest from town residents in the mission of Zero Waste, but not everyone wants to be affiliated with a town committee and there are some limitations to being a town committee (e.g. Open meeting rules). Larry posed a question to the group around whether should we spin up an internal sub-committee to explore establishing longer term working groups that can be structured one step removed from ZWA in order to provide more flexibility and potentially attract more interest/participation from town residents.
- v. Allison to add the Land Acknowledgement text/slide to the meeting agendas going forward

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm